

Tomnacross Tidings



Kiltarlity Church of Scotland

Regular Worship 11.15am - everyone welcome

February 2015 Diary

- 1st Rev Peter Donald - joint communion service with Kirkhill
- 8th Mr Len Cazaly
- 15th Rev Doug McRoberts
- 22nd Rev Bruce Ritchie

Mondays at 12.50pm Tomnacross Primary School - '*Open the Book*'

March 2015 Diary

- 1st Rev Bruce Ritchie - communion service

From our Interim Moderator, Peter Donald

Dear friends,

There was a time when the people of God wandered in the wilderness. It was a journey of hope and yet always, and again and again, marked by testing. Some good decisions were made, and some bad. And in the midst of it Moses ascended Mount Sinai and was given the Commandments. Anchored in the commitment of God to His people, the people were to know how to worship and therefore how to live.

Then there was the time when Jesus also found himself in the wilderness. Led on by the Spirit, we are told, and yet tested. Needing to anchor himself in the Scriptures long since handed down, and at the same time needing to allow those ancient truths to become his. Help from God was never far away, but he was to take hold of it. And from that we hear of

Jesus like Moses on a mountainside, there sitting down and teaching those who would learn from him how to worship, how to live.

He began so famously insisting that faith invites us to receive blessing. Blessing, i.e. the favour of God, truly is poured out. But, Jesus says, see how blessings come and will come very especially to those who most need them. The poor in spirit, something there has broken their confidence and their peace. Those who mourn, they are so conscious of what and whom they miss. The meek, they have much experience of being trampled over in the rush. Those who long for a better world, moved to tears by the cruelty and the violence and the greed so prevalent – they, all these, are blessed and will be blessed. Or to put it another way, God holds them in His heart and is more than ready to answer their cries.

A young man in prison wanted to speak to me two days ago. And he wanted to speak to me about prayer, how for him prayer had come alive in a way that he had never begun to expect. He had been brought up in a Christian family but he was not even well in touch with that family (though I rather suspect they have been praying for him). But God had never been far away. It only needed that young man to lift up his eyes.

So, Jesus continued, recognise how blessings spread from being merciful, from not rushing to judge others. Recognise how blessings spread from being pure in heart, focusing on the things of God and not being so distracted and taken up with the mundane. Recognise how blessings follow those who are peacemakers, and desist from being the cause of stirring up trouble; healing hurts demands all our commitment! And recognise how though truth may have a hard time in this world, and gentleness, and generosity – a hard time because so many prefer to be underhand, manipulative and selfish – it is still better to suffer for holding to what is good than to give up.

Jesus was a teacher and he also led the way. He took on our human longing and tears; he embodied the mercy and purity and peacemaking and righteousness of our holy God. We sinners, he wanted us to follow. Make a difference with the way you live. To be salt of the earth, or to shine God's light into every situation, this is our high calling.

Thanks be to God.

PREPARATIONS FOR OUR NEW MINISTER

The joint Manse committee between Kiltarlity and Kirkhill has met on several occasions and now the Deacons' Courts in both congregations have approved expenditure plans. There is a fairly full redecoration programme to improve the décor and a decision to renew the bathroom suite which was ageing. In addition some fairly substantial works have been added in - the conversion of the existing kitchen and separate dining room into a more open kitchen dining area, and the installation of a downstairs shower. On the conversion plans, we have needed to secure the approval not only of Presbytery but also the General Trustees

in whom the property is vested. We are optimistic of getting that approval but at the time of writing it is still being awaited. Finally there is an unexpected issue of flooring, largely around carpets needing to be replaced by non-wool alternatives. All told, it is quite an expensive operation, over £27000. There is some £9000 in accrued rental incomes from during the Vacancy which will be used for this. For the rest, at the Kiltarlity end for our half-share, the Deacons and Elders have agreed to draw on capital reserves, where there are sufficient funds in hand. Presbytery will have to grant permission for the spending at its meeting in February.

ON THE SUBJECT OF REFURBISHMENT.....

Our own Church hall has recently been given a make-over, and a little opening event was held after church one Sunday. Here are a few photos.



THE KILTARLITY ORGAN

Organists, past and present!

Tonya, our present organist was appointed following the retirement of Ian (Jock) Fraser who had held the post for some 30 years. Ian had been appointed on a “temporary” basis, that appointment lasting 30 years (!!!) during which time he and his late wife Lynn had faithfully travelled through ALL weathers from Inverness to accompany the singing to a very appreciative congregation.

Prior to Ian’s long service to the church the organ was played regularly by Mrs Joey Stewart who had commenced HER work within the church in 1950, playing regularly and faithfully until her death in 1982. To Joey’s memory the flower stand was dedicated, this bearing a small commemorative plaque to that effect.

Mrs Linda Fraser, mother of Mr George Fraser, Tomnacross Farm, and to whom reference was made in the last newsletter, regularly played (assisted behind the scenes by George!) prior to Joy.

Following a bit of research the organist possibly even prior to Linda has been identified as Mr Stanley Munro, of Bruiach Mills who also played the instrument then in its “youth”. At the stage of preparing this article there is some confusion as to whether Mr Munro preceded or followed Linda if anyone is better informed as to the answer to this conundrum please let either of the 2 editors know!

Following on from this line of musicians Tonya took up her post as organist on 22nd June 2014.

For Tonya music is her full time occupation, her experience dating back as far as 1983, now some 30+ years! Tonya was classically trained in Russia and now teaches music (piano) on a private basis from her home in Dingwall.

Tonya writes :

“I originally come from Russia, though most of my roots (ancestry) are from the Ukraine and some other ex-Soviet countries. In those days it was all one country!

I live in Dingwall with my lovely family consisting of one long suffering husband Graham and 2 beautiful children Sasha and Jonny.

I started playing piano well before I started Primary School, and when I was old enough I was accepted to study and was enrolled at a Music School. It took me 7 seven years to complete that schooling. Just over a year ago I started learning to play “organ”, as the “King” of all instruments always fascinated me. One day I hope I will conquer it!

I also teach piano from my home and recently have been offered the chance to become a Full Professional Member of the European Piano Teachers Association.

My children alas are not much into piano, but Sasha plays cello and both play violin. Jonny is just under 3 years of age and sometimes holds his 1/8 size violin as you would hold a guitar.

I really enjoy playing at the Church for you all and thank you for being so patient with me whilst I was getting the hang of it!!



Tonya, on Christmas Eve, had been invited to play at a prestigious occasion in the Inverness Town House, at which both Russian and UK veterans of the Arctic Convoy met together, the group having travelled around several cities of the UK, prior to meeting within the City of Inverness and in the presence of the Provost and a delegation of dignitaries from the council.

Tonya, playing a beautiful Bosendorf Grand Piano and accompanied by Litsa Tunnah from London on violin (see photograph), played a selection of both Classical and Scottish music for the guests, subsequently describing the experience as ‘amazing’ and a privilege to have met such remarkable, heroic people. Tonya remarked that ‘it was amazing not only to meet these heroes, but also to learn more about the history of the Arctic Convoys during WW2, as it had all been kept top secret for so long’.

In addition Tonya described her experience as one of the best ways of spending Christmas Eve, (apart from playing at Kiltarlity Church Watchnight Service later on that day)!

Recently Tonya has been in London playing at a music publishers’ piano showcase event, and playing again on a similar grand piano as that played in the Town House, City of Inverness.



MONTHLY TEAS & COFFEES

It was decided at the last Kirk Session that teas and coffees after the service once a month would be a really nice idea. We need to decide on a regular Sunday spot and have couple of volunteers each month to do the job - let's not leave it to the same people! Look out for a notice on the subject in the hall. Guys may also apply.....

OUR NEW MINISTER - AN UPDATE

The induction of our new minister, Jonathan Humphrey, is provisionally booked for Fri 27th March. This is likely to be at 7pm in Kiltarlity Church, followed by a social in Kirkhill. All arrangements are provisional until Presbytery give their final approval, which is dependent on manse works, etc. Things may change, but do put this date in your diary now!

Jonathan would then be 'preached in' in Kiltarlity Church on Sunday 29th March.

The AGM has been agreed for Sunday 22nd March at 12.30pm. Peter will chair the meeting and tea/coffee will be served.

There will be definite information in the next few weeks, by intimation at church services, and in next month's newsletter.

JOE BARNARD

We hear that Joe Barnard is now a fully qualified minister of the Free Church and has been accepted by his congregation as their permanent pastor. His induction is also potentially mid March. This is great news for another village church and the Christian ministry.

A prayer for all ages together

People are looking for you today, Lord:
looking for you to be their friend;
looking for you to help them in their fear;
looking for you to take care of those they love;
looking for you to meet them in their hearts
and give them hope;
looking for you to bless their lives
with your living presence
and the promise of your eternal love.

Thank you, Lord, that you are looking for them, and us too,
that in Christ you will never let us go through anything alone.

Amen.

Something for your powers of observation (and eyesight...)

There are 14 differences in the famous drawing of our church. Can you spot them? Let us know if you have been successful!

